



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB3686

by Rep. Litesa E. Wallace

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Veterans' and Military Discount Card Program Act. Provides that the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall establish and administer a Veterans' and Military Discount Card Program to issue a Veterans' and Military Discount Card to eligible active duty service members and veterans in the State for use at participating merchants who agree to honor the Veterans' and Military Discount Card by providing cardholders with a discount on goods and services, or another appropriate money-saving promotion of a merchant's choice. Provides that the Department shall use DD-214 military discharge records in conjunction with photo identification such as a driver's license, State ID card, federal military or Veterans Affairs ID, or passport to issue the Veterans' and Military Discount Card to eligible veterans; and that in the case of active duty service members, a valid military ID or other official government identification that denotes active duty service, and photo ID if needed, shall be used to determine eligibility. Requires the Department to develop and implement an outreach program to ensure that active duty service members and veterans in the State are made aware of the Veterans' and Military Discount Card Program and permits the Secretary of State to also assist in promoting and disseminating information on the Program. Grants the Department of Veterans' Affairs rulemaking authority. Effective immediately.

LRB099 03897 KTG 23913 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning veterans.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Veterans' and Military Discount Card Program Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative findings. The General Assembly
7 finds that though there is no way to adequately repay our
8 nation's military personnel for their service and sacrifice, we
9 can demonstrate our gratitude by forging a collaborative effort
10 between businesses and government that will connect veterans
11 and active duty service members with merchants who choose to
12 honor their military service through special discounts and
13 promotions.

14 The Veterans' and Military Discount Card Program, created
15 under this Act, will provide veterans (those honorably
16 discharged and other veterans generally discharged for reasons
17 other than discipline, misconduct, resignation in lieu of
18 misconduct charges, unfitness for duty, voluntary resignation,
19 or court martial) and military personnel currently serving our
20 country with discount cards that can be used at participating
21 merchants throughout the State of Illinois who agree to honor
22 the Veterans' and Military Discount Card by providing
23 cardholders with a discount on goods and services, or another

1 appropriate money-saving promotion of a merchant's choice.

2 The Veterans' and Military Discount Card Program will be
3 mutually beneficial, helping active duty service members and
4 veterans in the State save money with discounts on goods and
5 services, and helping business owners to enjoy increased
6 traffic and sales in their stores.

7 Section 10. Veterans' and Military Discount Card Program.
8 The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall establish and
9 administer a Veterans' and Military Discount Card Program. The
10 Department shall issue a Veterans' and Military Discount Card
11 to eligible active duty service members and veterans in the
12 State for use at participating merchants who agree to honor the
13 Veterans' and Military Discount Card by providing cardholders
14 with a discount on goods and services, or another appropriate
15 money-saving promotion of a merchant's choice. The Department
16 shall use DD-214 military discharge records in conjunction with
17 photo identification such as a driver's license, State ID card,
18 federal military or Veterans Affairs ID, or passport to issue
19 the Veterans' and Military Discount Card to eligible veterans;
20 in the case of active duty service members, a valid military ID
21 or other official government identification that denotes
22 active duty service, and photo ID if needed, shall be used to
23 determine eligibility.

24 Section 15. Outreach program. The Department shall develop

1 and implement an outreach program to ensure that active duty
2 service members and veterans in the State are made aware of the
3 Veterans' and Military Discount Card Program. The Secretary of
4 State may also assist in promoting and disseminating
5 information on the Program.

6 Section 20. Rules. The Department of Veterans' Affairs
7 shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this Act.

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
9 becoming law.